

UN WOMEN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

2021
Highlights



UN Women is the United Nations agency dedicated to gender equality and empowerment of women.



2021

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Highlights**



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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE



It is with great pleasure to share with you highlights of our achievements for the year 2021. It was a difficult year for most Papua New Guineans due to multiple crises. It was also a year that gave hope to many, especially women and girls. Through the efforts of Government, United Nations, civil society, development partners, private sector and communities, Papua New Guinea witnessed landmark developments in the fight against Gender-based Violence (GBV). For example, the Government of Papua New Guinea allocated 7.93 million Kina to address GBV.

Despite the multifaceted challenges brought about by COVID-19 in 2021, UN Women's support positively impacted the lives of women in Papua New Guinea. We reprogrammed and came up with new interventions to respond to the COVID-19. Market vendors' knowledge about COVID-19 increased. We provided 23 safehouses in 16 provinces with food vouchers, reusable masks, personal protective equipment and IT equipment (laptops and internet dongles) so that they could continue to offer their services during the COVID pandemic. Over 350 women market vendors acquired practical skills to enhance their livelihoods. A total of 58,443 market vendors and users have increased understanding about the importance of men and women having equal opportunities in the society and the importance of respecting women's rights.

In partnership with the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance, UN Women established Papua New Guinea's first Political Leadership Academy for Women that will address some of the barriers facing women politicians and contribute to a leadership pipeline for sub-national female politicians. Women advocacy coalitions were established in four regions to advocate for policy and legislative measures that can guarantee women's inclusion in governance structures. Civil Society Organizations' and government departments' ability to design and implement ending violence against women interventions was strengthened.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to our donors whose support has enabled UN Women to reach women and girls across the country. The results showcased here wouldn't have been possible without the strong partnerships that UN Women enjoys with Government, CSOs, private sector, sister UN agencies, and development partners. I am grateful to all our partners and my committed team at UN Women PNG Country Office.

Looking ahead to 2022, we remain committed to working with all stakeholders in making gender equality and women's empowerment a reality in PNG as part of the realization of its aspirations in the Constitution, Vision 2050 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We will not tire until all women and girls can live a life free from violence.

Themba Kalua
Country Representative

2021 PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



Launch of Political Leadership Academy

UN Women partnered with the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance to open the Political Leadership Academy for Women on 9 December 2021. The Academy, the first of its kind in the country, is part of the *Women Make the Change* programme funded by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. The academy, supported by UN Women, is taking a targeted approach to help women succeed in political office by creating a pipeline for subnational female politicians.



Launch of the toolkit

On 18 November 2021, UN Women launched a toolkit for operating markets in Papua New Guinea. The toolkit will act as a framework to provide guidance to market owners and managers on proper management of local markets. Markets provide trading opportunities for more than 80% of ordinary Papua New Guineans.



The Civil Society Organization (CSO) Forum

Working with the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council, UN Women convened civil society organizations (CSOs) for a gender and human rights forum at which the Minister of Community Development, Wake Goi, attended. More than 100 civil society and human rights activists and members of faith-based organizations attended. At the forum, CSOs presented a call to action to the Minister asking the Government to invest in CSOs and approve the State Civil Society Partnership Policy so that the organizations can receive funding directly from Government. The main event was held at APEC Haus in Port Moresby on 10 December 2021. Satellite events were held in Lae, Goroka, Mount Hagen and Kokopo cities.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

Governance and Participation in Public Life

Women's Economic Empowerment

552

WOMEN

were trained to undertake their roles efficiently in Governments, Provincial assemblies, district and provincial councils of women, or other sub national governance structures.

1,682

PEOPLE FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT

were trained in Women Political Participation and Leadership.

225

WOMEN LEADERS AND PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

were trained, mentored, and attended forums organized by UN Women, UNDP, and Integrity of Political Parties & Candidates Commission (IPCC).

86

WOMEN'S GROUPS, NETWORKS AND ORGANISATIONS

were supported to form regional coalitions and advocate for women's political participation.

112,438

PEOPLE

were reached with Women in Leadership campaigns, documentaries, and communication products.

311

VENDORS TRAINED

In financial literacy and business development.

56

PERCENT OF MARKET VENDORS AND USERS

Reported an increase in disposable income

58,443

MARKET VENDORS AND USERS

Reached with messages on gender equality and women's rights.

505

DUTY BEARERS

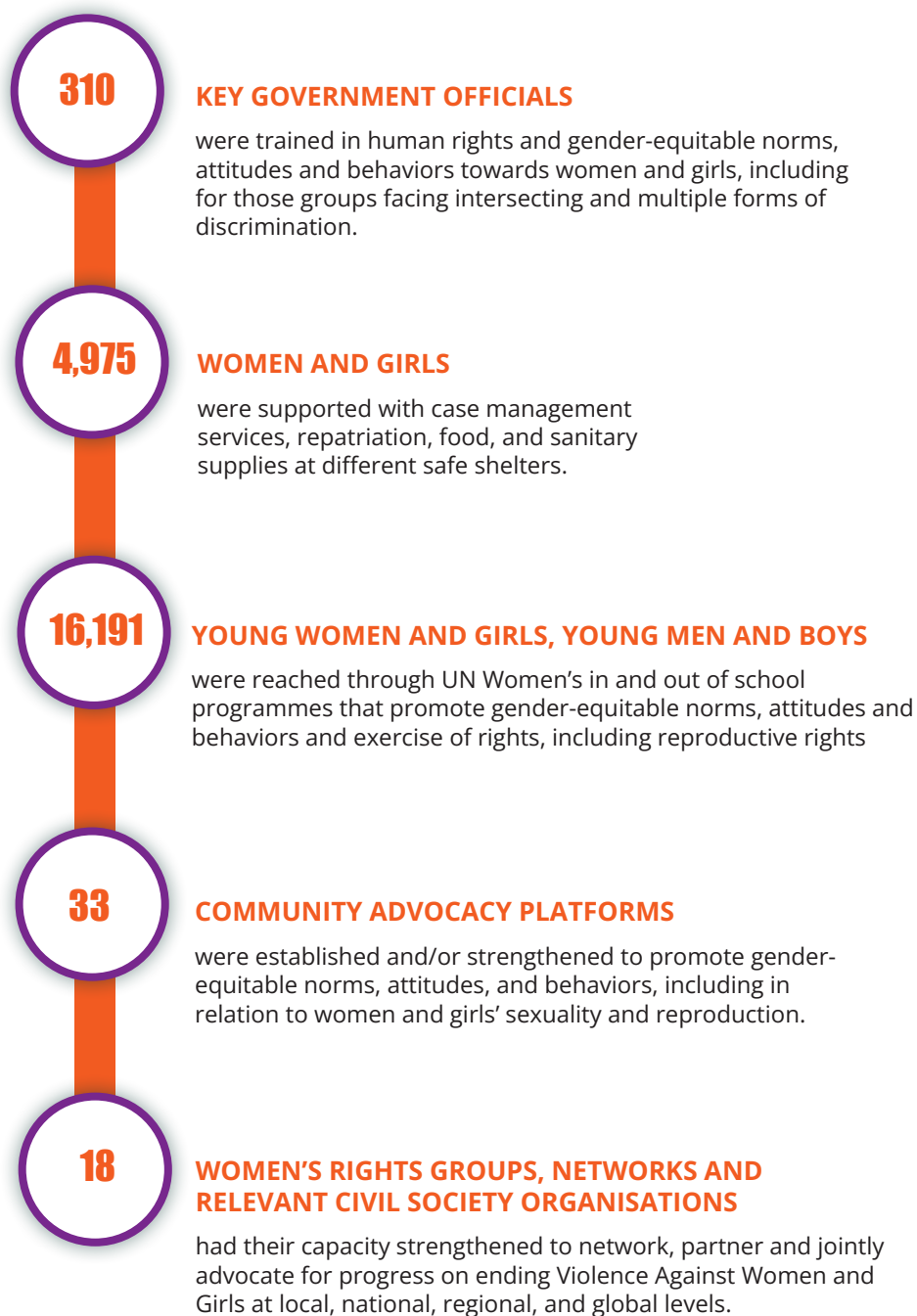
Trained and supported to develop and implement gender responsive policies and COVID19 prevention measures.

70

PERCENT OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND FARMERS

Reported ability to make decisions over the use of their income.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls







GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC LIFE

We advocate for legislative and constitutional reforms to ensure women’s fair access to governance. We provide political leadership training and mentorship to women political leaders, candidates, and young women aspiring for political posts at the local, district, provincial and national levels.

Together with UNDP, we work with the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties to enable political parties to adopt and implement party constitutions that promote gender equality and women’s leadership. We work with the Department for Community Development and Religion to support women’s groups and leaders in advocacy on issues of national importance.

552

WOMEN

were trained to undertake their roles efficiently in Governments, Provincial assemblies, district and provincial councils of women.

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PEOPLE FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT

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225

WOMEN LEADERS AND PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

were trained, mentored, and attended forums

Given the cross-cutting nature of gender equality, UN Women, in partnership with the Department for Community Development and Religion, supported the establishment of regional advocacy coalitions for gender equality that brought together women from diverse sectors. The women-led advocacy coalitions were established in each region to advocate for women's political participation with a focus on Temporary Special Measures (TSMs). This provided a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of the reserved seats model under discussion by the National Government and led to an increased focus on TSMs in the mainstream media. Each regional coalition provided a set of recommendations on women's political participation in the country to the relevant Government counterpart.

In 2021, the National Executive Council recommended establishment of five regional reserved seats for women. However, the legislation on the reserved seats was not progressed by the current Government. UN Women will continue to work with national partners to sensitize the newly elected Members of the 11th Parliament, on the importance of women's meaningful and equal political participation in the country.

UN Women in partnership with the Pacific Institute of Leadership and Governance (PILAG) established PNG's first Political Leadership Academy for Women (PLAW). The academy seeks to contribute to a leadership pipeline for sub-national female politicians, supporting them to advance their careers to the national level. During the pilot phase, 19 women from 11 provinces received training on Leadership and Governance and Community Engagement.

Following the training, the women shared that they felt more equipped to carry out their functions as sub-national politicians. Knowledge products were also developed to support the mentorship component of the Academy. Mentorship from former and current political leaders is a critical component of PLAW. A total of 13 (3 males; 10 females) mentors came on board to support the mentorship component of the Academy.

Through several programmatic activities, UN Women identified a total of 82 women intending to contest in the 2022 National General Elections. They were connected to other partners, including UNDP, the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPCC), Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, and the Australian National University (ANU), for support. Others were provided with opportunities to participate in mentoring and political party forums which enabled them to learn more about the role of political parties and electoral laws. It also provided them with an opportunity to meet political party secretaries and leaders for endorsement.

Following a request from the National Department for Community Development and Religion to support the review of the National Gender Policy which expired in 2015, UN Women in 2021 provided support in the review of the Gender Policy and this will continue throughout 2022. UN Women has also been providing support to the Autonomous Bougainville Government Department of Community Development in the review of their Gender Policy and the creation of a new Partnerships Policy. Initial consultations on the policies for the Autonomous Bougainville Government were carried out in 2021; the policies will be finalized in 2022 following extensive consultations across Bougainville.

“

I have realized the importance of networking with fellow female leaders so that we drive gender issues together. I will support fellow women candidates so that we can oust male-dominated leadership. Since the population of women is almost equal to that of men in the country, I will use that strength to get women's support.

I want to empower them with information on their right to vote for leaders of their choice. If we can have many women in leadership positions, we can put in place the much-needed services for our people within the provinces.

”

Ruthy Watlen, is one of the women leaders who trained under the Political Leadership Academy for Women.





ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Our Ending Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Programme focuses on creating public awareness of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence (GBV). We train service providers to prevent the violence and to help survivors. We work with the Government's Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee to strengthen the referral pathways for women and children who are at risk of or survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse, GBV and sorcery-related violence. We also strengthen Government's ability to handle issues of gender and protection in emergencies; sexual exploitation and abuse; human rights; and norms, attitudes and behaviors towards women and girls. UN Women support the development of policies such as the Human Rights Defenders Law and Policy, which protects defenders as they do their work. We also help women with disabilities, women living with HIV, and other groups to run campaigns to end violence against them. And we help local authorities and transport companies find ways to make public transport safe and reliable for women and girls.

4,975

WOMEN AND GIRLS

were supported with case management services, repatriation, food, and sanitary supplies at different safe shelters.

16,191

YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS, YOUNG MEN AND BOYS

were reached through UN Women's in and out of school programmes that promote gender-equitable norms, attitudes and behaviors and exercise of rights, including reproductive rights.

18

WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUPS, NETWORKS AND RELEVANT CSOS

had their capacity strengthened to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending Violence Against Women and Girls at local, national, regional, and global levels.

A total of 4975 women and girls were supported with case management services, repatriation, food, and sanitary supplies at different safe shelters in the country. UN Women also supported FEMILI PNG to establish a case management centre in Goroka, which improved access to GBV services for the survivors during the COVID-19 lockdown.

UN Women developed the COVID-19 safe house guidelines for frontline staff and trained 117 (84 females and 33 males) GBV service providers on the use of the guideline and the COVID-19 prevention measures. To ensure availability of quality services for GBV survivors, UN Women supported 23 safe houses in 16 provinces with food vouchers, reusable masks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and IT equipment (laptops and internet dongles). Through this support, 2481 survivors (897 women, 302 men, 797 girls, 449 boys, 27 women with disabilities and 9 men with disabilities) benefitted from services including accommodation, case management and referral.

UN Women, through ChildFund PNG, an implementing partner, expanded 1-Tok Kaunselin services to 24-hours call centre services. As a result, 10500 calls were registered from both women and men seeking GBV and COVID-19 counseling services.

Through support and engagement of Civil Society Organisations under the Spotlight Initiative and Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Projects, nine community action groups were established to network, partner and jointly advocate for progress on ending VAWG in their communities in Eastern Highlands Province and East Sepik Province. As a result, beneficiaries have shown positive change in their attitudes towards gender equality. UN Women, in partnership with Anglicare PNG, strengthened the partners GBV screening package to support People living with HIV. A total of 26 clinicians and HIV counselors received training on GBV screening protocol. Reporting and recording tools were also upgraded and improved to capture GBV screening, types of violence, and holistically capture the minimum service package. This includes the referral of the external services and referral outcome. A total of 3,581 people were screened for GBV through HIV Counselling and Testing services, of which 115 people who screened positive for GBV were given GBV clinical care based on the minimum package standard.

Additionally, 432 people were reached through mobile outreaches conducted in seven markets in the National Capital District, and Kwikila High School in the Central Province. As a result, 398 were tested for HIV while 400 people were screened for GBV.

The Constitutional and Law Reform Commission (CLRC) was supported to draft a policy brief to facilitate the National Executive Council in providing a directive to start the official development of the Human Rights Defenders Protection bill. This policy brief submission is awaiting clearance by the Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG). This is the first milestone towards developing the Human Rights Defenders Bill. An MOU between UN Women and CLRC has been signed to progress this work, especially consultations for drafting of the bill.

In the spirit of 'Leave no one behind' UN Women supported Equal Playing Field and Cheshire disability services to reach out to persons with disability during COVID times. Cheshire Services raised awareness on COVID 19 prevention measures for 208 women and provided COVID 19 safe disability support to them. Cheshire Disability Services also installed hand washing facilities in three locations, thereby benefiting over 800 school children and the neighbouring communities. On the other hand, Equal Playing Field implemented a capacity development program titled: 'Leave no one behind' for five disability service CSOs on advocacy for People with disabilities and organisational skills for six months, which was concluded in early 2021.

UN Women through the Spotlight Initiative supported five CSOs with small grants for institutional strengthening. Eleven training sessions on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Gender and Human Rights were conducted, reaching 240 participants who are staff and key focal points of respective CSOs. Additionally, awareness activities on gender and human rights were conducted through 17 Evangelical Lutheran Church PNG districts reaching 486 participants in the communities. This has demonstrated the significance of building CSO capacity at institutional and community level and equipping them with appropriate tools to bring change into the rural districts on gender equality and human rights as they continue to own the social issues and are prepared to address it.

UN Women capacitated CSOs and government departments to design and implement Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) interventions. Eleven women's rights groups and relevant CSOs representing groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination/marginalization were supported to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate their own programmes on EVAWG and contribute to COVID 19 response and prevention efforts.

“

I coordinated several activities under the SANAP Wantaim campaign, which involved reaching out to communities and schools. We used to show case short drama skits on ending violence against women and girls. We engaged students and the public on how to create a safer environment for women and girls in communities. Several male students joined the campaign. Even in communities, some men joined the campaign as advocates for gender equality. This is rare, given the patriarchal nature of our society in Papua New Guinea.

”

Sophie Teio is the founder of Youth Space Initiative in Lae, and former Volunteer UN Women Papua New Guinea.





WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

UN Women supports markets and the informal economy to promote protection and economic benefits of women operating in 15 markets across 12 provinces. Through a coordinated approach, UN Women supports government officials, market controllers, security guards and police to better manage markets thereby creating a safe and economically vibrant working environment that boosts women's business activities. Women are also supported in forming associations to collectively raise their voices about issues experienced in the markets and influence the way markets are operated. UN Women promotes women's businesses through targeted practical skills, financial literacy and is also looking at improving their access to finance in order to improve and grow their businesses as well as increase their savings.

311

VENDORS

were trained in financial literacy and business development.

505

DUTY BEARERS

were trained and supported to develop and implement gender responsive policies and COVID19 prevention measures.

58,443

MARKET VENDORS AND USERS

were reached with messages on gender equality and women's rights.

UN Women empowered women market vendors with skills to enhance livelihoods. Over 350 women vendors in 12 markets acquired practical skills in baking, food handling, textile designing and sewing. The training aimed at improving their income levels through diversified economic activities to enable the vendors recover from COVID 19 economic related shocks and be able to grow their businesses. Women vendors who received skills training reported increased income and better management of their small businesses.

UN Women collaborated with micro-finance institutions and local trainers to facilitate financial literacy and budgeting trainings to the women vendors. A total of 311 vendors were trained in financial literacy and business development. As a result, women who participated in the trainings were given an opportunity to open bank accounts, which resulted into increased savings and having funds set aside to expand their businesses. Additionally, MiBank established local agents in markets for easy access to women vendors. This has resulted in increased savings and funds set aside for business expansion.

A total of 505 Local Government officials and market regulators were trained in managing markets during a pandemic and in a more sustainable manner to ensure women's economic wellbeing and livelihood activities were protected. Standard guidelines were developed for market operations including COVID-19 measures as well as broader guidelines on sanitation and safety. UN Women provided training to market managers and other key personnel on these best practice guidelines. An Endline survey conducted on the Markets Economic Recovery and Inclusion (MERI) project showed some improvements in practices in some markets.

UN Women used its advocacy initiatives to support People with Disabilities (PWDs) in the markets. Through the local market management committee, whose establishment UN Women supported, a decision was made to assign designated vending space for PWDs within Lae market, based on feedback from PWDs representatives and vendors with disabilities. This reduced the stress vendors with disabilities go through looking for space in markets. In addition, the Morobe Disabled Persons Association signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Lae market management to provide technical advice and support to enable a more inclusive market environment.

UN Women conducted rapid assessment in 13 markets across PNG to benchmark women economic empowerment market interventions. The assessment was also used to reshape the Women Economic Empowerment programme interventions during COVID-19 pandemic. During the assessments it was established that 70 per cent of households lost their income because of COVID-19 pandemic. These statistics provided a basis for UN Women interventions, such as providing practical skills training in advanced tailoring and sewing which enabled many women vendors to diversify their income sources.

UN Women contributed to increased market vendors knowledge levels on COVID-19. A total of 58,443 market users and the public were reached through youth led awareness activities to prevent the spread of COVID 19 in 12 markets. UN Women developed and trained market authorities on market management guidance, conducted awareness raising sessions by Sanap Wantaim youth volunteers and market staff. Market interventions by market management and youth volunteers increased market vendors' knowledge levels on how COVID-19 is spread, symptoms, and prevention mechanisms. The market managements introduced mandatory measures such as wearing masks, washing hands at the entrance and social distances.

With support from UN Women, market vendors were mobilized to form associations across all the 12 markets, and some have already completed their registration process and are operational. These include Milne Bay Women Vendors Association, Huhu Women Vendors Association, and Lae Urban Vendors and Growers Association. UN Women also installed a new fee payment system Alotau Market which resulted into improved tracking of market revenue including less leakages. Vendors are also more confident in paying their fees to market fee collectors using the system. They are also able to save money from extortion and have a record of their transactions in the market.

UN Women launched a toolkit for operating markets in Papua New Guinea. The toolkit will act as a framework to provide guidance to market owners and market managers on proper management of local markets. There are considerations on women's wellbeing and growth of the local economy in the Toolkit which for the first time gives local governments the tools to make changes at the local levels. Markets provide trading opportunities for more than 80 per cent of ordinary Papua New Guineans. On the other hand, 60 per cent of the vendors are women.

“

I never knew the importance of saving money. The financial literacy training helped me to change my perception about savings and how to manage money wisely. Nowadays, I save money and invest. It is a great feeling to see my money grow on my account.

”

Paula Kundi is a market vendor in Lae market. She is one of the women vendors who benefited from the financial trainings provided by UN Women in 2021.





WOMEN'S PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Our women's peace and security programme strengthens the ability of Government institutions to prevent and respond to intergroup conflicts by involving women and young people in the peace building processes. We establish networks of young women who advocate for their needs. We support efforts led by women, youths, and people with disabilities to promote unity and reduce triggers of conflict both in the Highlands and Bougainville regions. We also strengthen the capacity of community mobilizers and mediators, female and male, to prevent and respond to conflicts between groups or tribes.

UN Women in collaboration with UNFPA, IOM, and UNDP has been implementing a joint programme, 'Creating Conditions for peace' in the Highlands region of Papua New Guinea. The project ensures that women and girls are central to peace processes. Following the positive results emerging from the implementation of this program, a new proposal to the 2021 PBF (Peacebuilding Fund) GYPI (Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative) call under the mental health window was developed and funded.

This funding will enable UN Women and UNFPA to further enhance already existing interventions to promote peace outcomes in the Highlands region, with a special focus on men and boys' engagement. 20 Community Mobilizers (women and men including young men and women) were trained in leadership and conflict management with UN Women support.

Through the partnership model, UN Women reached out to less privileged youth, older people, women and girls and people with disability. Through collaborating with the Bougainville Healthy Communities Programme, UN Women provided training on human rights, gender, and inclusive decision-making to 221 women living in rural and remote communities in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.





UN System Coordination

UN Women leads and coordinates United Nations system efforts to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout Papua New Guinea. We work towards positioning gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs), and a more inclusive world. UN Women also coordinates accountability for gender equality across the UN Country Team in Papua New Guinea.

In 2021, UN Women effectively co-chaired the protection cluster, which is the platform for the UN agencies, Development partners, Government departments such as Department for Community Development and Religion (DFCDR), and 45 Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and CSOs, including Faith-Based Organisations. As the co-chair, UN women was instrumental in mainstreaming gender sensitive protection activities into other clusters, through introducing the centrality of protection and gender sensitive approaches in humanitarian action, as well as raising awareness on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Assault (PSEA) and incorporating it into humanitarian responses.

UN Women played a key role in mainstreaming protection and gender capacity assessment of humanitarian actors through the Protection Cluster, by conducting capacity assessments of cluster members

as well as gauging the PSEA capacity of implementing partners and disseminating PSEA assessment tools to PSEA Taskforce members. The protection cluster proposed a revised gender sensitive protection rapid assessment tool to the National Disaster Centre. Additionally, UN Women provided input in the process of reforming the PNG National Disaster Act 1987, in order to integrate gender sensitive protection dimensions into the Act.

The UNCT SWAP gender scorecard was endorsed to establish an accountability framework for assessing the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming by UN Women Country Teams. The Inter-Agency Team (IAT) was established, and it is comprised of 16 personnel representing different UN Agencies. They were placed into six groups to work on and score 15 indicators. A Final Report with the recommendations will be finalized in March 2022 and recommendations implemented.



Our Donors

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to our development partners whose support has enabled us to reach women and girls across Papua New Guinea. Our work has been made possible through the generous support from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and European Union.



Australia



New Zealand



Japan



European Union



Captions

1. Women in a leadership workshop in Alotau in January Page 1 Photo: UNDP
2. Vendors in Vanimo during the skills training in 2021 Page 6 Photo: UN Women
3. Konjim Andreas gives a speech after receiving a prize for winning the essay competition on the barriers and solutions to address women's political participation and leadership in PNG. Page 7 Photo: UN Women
4. Women in Southern highlands march during the International day for the elimination of VAW December 25, 2021 Page 11 Photo: UN Women
5. The launch of the 20 days of Activism in Port Moresby Page 14 Photo: UN Women
6. Women selling fruits in Gordons Market Port Moresby Page 15 Photo: UN Women
7. COVID-19 awareness in Gordons market in Port Moresby. Page 17 Photo: UN Women
8. Members of the community say goodbye to the UNCT members during their visit to Tari. Page 18 Photo: UN Women
9. Women in Bougainville undergoing peacebuilding training. Page Photo: UN Women



About UN Women in Papua New Guinea

UN Women has been working in Papua New Guinea since 2011. Our overarching goal is to ensure, that “Women’s rights are more respected, and more women are empowered in decision making.” The current Country Programme (Strategic Note), which covers the period 2018-2022, contributes to priorities identified in UN Women’s Global Strategic Plan (2018-2021) and is aligned to UNDevelopment Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022; to Government of Papua New Guinea’s Vision 2050 (on human capital development, gender, youth, and people empowerment); and to UN Agenda 2030 promise to “leave no one behind.” The programme is implemented in 13 provinces, supported through the main office in Port Moresby.





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Papua New Guinea

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